R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 15-18 have been amended to correct the informalities pointed out by the Examiner and to make some additional minor clarifying amendments. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that "the specific character information data" recited in claim 18 refers to "specific character information data <u>memorized in the information memorizing section</u>" as now more clearly recited in amended claim 18.

It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to the claims are <u>not</u> related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of JP 09-265481 ("Hara") and USP 5,770,841 ("Moed et al"), and claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Hara, Moed et al, and USP 6,144,958 ("Ortega et al").[1] These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 15, the comparing section compares the inputted ID data with specific character information data memorized in an information memorizing section, and when the comparing section judges that the inputted ID data <u>coincides</u> with the specific character information data memorized in the information memorizing section, an operation section <u>holds the inputted ID data until the inputted ID data is corrected by the operating section</u>.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 15, when the inputted ID data <u>does coincide</u> with the stored specific character information data, the operation section holds the inputted ID data until the inputted ID data is corrected by the operating section.

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[1] The Examiner has incorrectly referred to Ortega et al as USP 4,632,252 in item 7 of the Office Action. Ortega et al is listed correctly as USP 6,114,958 on the form PTO-892 attached to the Office Action.

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It is respectfully pointed out that the reference cited by
the Examiner as disclosing this feature of the present invention
(Moed et al) actually discloses correcting data that does <u>not</u>
coincide with stored data. Indeed, the Examiner recognizes that
Moed et al discloses correcting data that does <u>not</u> coincide with
stored data (see the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action). It
appears, therefore, that the rejection in view of Moed et al (as
combined with Hara) may have been based on a misinterpretation of
independent claim 15, which as pointed out hereinabove recites
correcting data that <u>does</u> coincide with the specific character
information data memorized in the information memorizing section.

With this structure of the present invention as recited in
independent claim 15, when it is necessary to obtain medical
image data of a first aid (e.g., emergency) patient or a newly
introduced patient or some other patient who does not have time
to confirm the patient ID, specific character information is
stored in the specific character information storage section
(before processing the image). The specific character
information is, for example, a patient ID of a first aid patient.

When the medical image data and the character information
data of such a patient are input, it is determined whether the ID
data inputted in the character information data corresponds to
the specific character information data. If the specific

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character information data corresponds to the inputted ID, then

the operation section requires correction of the ID data, such

that, for example, fixing an incorrect patient ID to the data can

be avoided. See the disclosure in the specification at, for

example, page 44, lines 10-20 and page 47, lines 8-13.

The Examiner acknowledges on page 4 of the Office Action

that Hara does not disclose a comparing or operating section as

recited in claim 15 or correcting data as recited in claim 15.

For this reason, the Examiner has cited Moed et al.

As recognized by the Examiner, Moed et al discloses using

character recognition to read a destination address on a package

label. As also recognized by the Examiner, according to Moed et

al the address that is optically recognized is checked against a

database of valid addresses. If the optically recognized address

is <u>not</u> valid, then an operator corrects the address. (See the

abstract of Moed et al.)

More specifically, as disclosed in column 13 and in Fig. 4

of Moed et al, an OCR algorithm is applied to each character in a

destination address (step 420). An attempt is made to validate

the destination address by matching the destination address with

the ZIP+4 database of the U.S. Postal Service (steps 424).

According to Moed et al, it is determined at step 426 whether or

not the destination address is a valid address matching an

address in the ZIP+4 database or in another database of valid

addresses. If the address is not valid, then automatic

correction of OCR errors is attempted at step 430 in Fig. 4 of

Moed et al. If the automatic correction still does not yield a

correct address (step 432) then manual correction is performed

(steps 434-438).

Clearly, therefore, Moed et al discloses correcting inputted

information that does <u>not</u> coincide with stored information.

Indeed, the correction of improperly decoded data is the need

addressed by Moed et al (column 2, lines 22-24 thereof).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Moed et al

clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the

present invention as recited in independent claim 15 whereby when

the comparing section judges that the inputted ID data <u>coincides</u>

with the specific character information data memorized in the

information memorizing section, an operation section <u>holds the</u>

<u>inputted ID data until the inputted ID data is corrected by the</u>

<u>operating section</u>.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Ortega et al

also does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the features of

the present invention as recited in independent claim 15.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that

the present invention as recited in independent claim 15 and

claims 16-18 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguishes

over Hara, Moed et al, and Ortega et al taken singly or in

combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the

passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or

recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt

action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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